



Circumcision

Surgical removal of the foreskin from the tip of the penis



What to Know

- Every male is born with a covering of skin over the sensitive end of the penis. This covering is called foreskin.
- For some people, circumcision is a religious ritual. For others, it is a cultural preference.
- The procedure began as a way to help prevent disease by making the penis easier to clean.
- Circumcision is the surgical removal of the foreskin from the head (tip) of the penis. This leaves the end of the penis exposed.
 - The tip of the penis will appear red and irritated until healed.
 - Healing usually will take place in seven to 10 days.
 - It is normal for the penis to have a slight yellow coating around the tip for about 10 days. (Do not try to wipe it off.)
- Your health care provider may have his/her own procedure for care of the circumcision.



What to Do

- Follow your health care provider's instructions for care of the circumcision.
- Petroleum jelly may be applied directly to the tip of the penis or applied to a piece of gauze and placed directly over

the tip of the penis. This keeps the penis from sticking to the diaper and allows it to heal effectively.

- Apply new petroleum jelly/gauze with every diaper change (at least every two to three hours) and after bathing.
- You may stop using the petroleum jelly/gauze in five to seven days.
- Wash the penis with warm water and a clean wash cloth. Do not use alcohol, soap, baby wipes or hydrogen peroxide. Pat dry with a clean, soft towel. After it heals, you may use warm, soapy water to clean the penis.
- Do not pull back the skin around the tip of the penis unless instructed by your health care provider.
- If a plastibell was used, no gauze bandage is needed. The small plastic rim should fall off the penis on its own in about five to eight days.

When to Call Your Health Care Provider

- If there is no urination (wet diaper) within four to six hours after circumcision.
- If there is continued, persistent bleeding (more than a spot on the diaper).
- If there is increased redness, swelling, foul smell or abnormal drainage from the penis.
- If the plastibell does not fall off after seven to 10 days.
- If you have any concerns or questions.

